

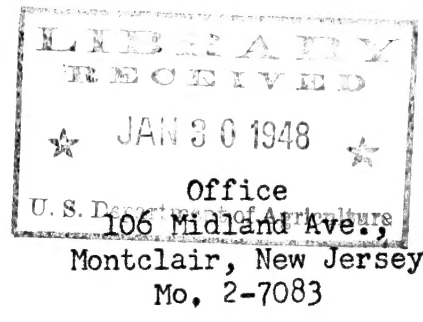
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62127

Dec. 1, 1947



HOUSE OF ORCHIDS  
Growers Importers

Greenhouse  
122 Gregory Ave.,  
West Orange, New Jersey  
Or. 3-5619

Cable Address  
"FOX"  
Montclair, N. J.

Office  
106 Midland Ave.,  
Montclair, New Jersey  
Mo. 2-7083

We offer the following well established orchid plants for immediate delivery. All stock certified and guaranteed true to name. The 3" Cattleya plants are not all blooming size. All others are flowering size plants. We cannot accept orders for less than \$5. unless a handling and packing charge of 10% is added. Prices are F. O. B. Montclair, N. J. Stock offered subject to prior sale.

	3"	4"	5" and over
Cattleya Aclandia	(on raft of wood and peat)		5.50
" Amethystoglossa	--	5.50	--
" Bowringiana	--	6.00	--
" Dowiana	5.50	15.00	--
" Gigas	3.00	10.00	15. - 35.
" Granulosa	--	5.00	--
" Harrisoniana	--	5.00	--
" Intermedia	--	5.00	--
" Labiata	2.00	6.50	10. - 12.
" Mendelii	2.50	7.50	12. - 20.
" Schroderae	2.50	7.50	12. - 20.
" Trianae	2.00	6.50	10. - 12.
" Walkeriana	--	5.00	--
Calanthe Harrisii	Dormant bulbs for winter delivery \$5.00		
	established plants after April 7.50		
Cypripedium insignae	2.00	4.00	--
" Harrisonianum	--	7.50	--
Dendrobium Dalhousaeianum	6.00	--	--
" Fimbriatum	7.00	--	--
" Formosum	6.00	--	--
" Nobile 2 1/2	2.00 5.50	--	--
" Pierardi	5.50	--	--
Epidendrum prismatocarpum	--	5.00	--
Laelia anceps	--	5.00	7.50
" purpurata	--	7.50	--
Lycaste Skinneri	3.00	6.00	--
Miltonia spectabilis	3.00	5.00	--
" " var Moreliana	3.00	6.00	--
" " var virginialis	3.00	6.00	--
Odontoglossum Grande	3.00	6.00	9.00
Oncidium Cavendishianum	--	5.00	8. - 10.
" Cibollita	--	5.00	--
" Papilio	--	6.50	--
" Sphacelatum	--	4.00	6.50
" Splendidum	2.00	6.50	10.00
" Varicosum Rogersii	3.00	5.50	--
" Ornithorynchum	4.00	--	--
Phalaenopsis amabilis	5.00	10.00	15.00
Vanda Miss. Joaquim 18" to 2'		7.50 each	
" Tricolor (Specimens only)		\$35. to \$60. each	
Zygopetalum Mackayi	--	5.00	7.50

Miscellaneous Botanicals obtained when purchasing collections. They include Catasetums, Oncidiums, Cypripediums, Cattleyas and others. Prices and sizes on request.

We have some fine large Anthurium Andreanum hybrids in mixed colors. The price is from \$7.50 to \$15. each. All over 2' in height.



Many have availed themselves of our offer of plants for beginners and we have varied our collections from time to time. We will also work out any selection to meet your growing conditions. We offer the following as a suggestion. They will give a long period of bloom depending upon the number of plants purchased.

<u>\$15.00</u>	<u>\$20.00</u>	<u>\$30.00</u>
C. Trianae	C. Trianae	C. Mendelii
C. Bowringiana	C. Schroderae	C. Trianae
Oncid. Varicosum	C. Labiata	C. Bowringiana
		C. Labiata
		C. Walkeriana

\* \* \* \* \*

Our booklet "Orchids as a Hobby" may be purchased for 25¢. This covers cost of printing and mailing and we will allow a credit of 25¢ on your first order. This book is a concise cultural direction for growing orchids in the greenhouse and suggestions for those who wish to grow them in the home.

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#### GROWING SUPPLIES

Osmundine fibre (brown)	2.50 per bag
500 ml. Erlenmeyer flasks for seed sowing	\$.65 each
Orchid tubes for shipping flowers	\$4.75 per hundred

We are constantly purchasing collections from various Estates and will offer plants after they are established and the identity is proven by us. Experience has taught us that many of these plants are not true to name.

Later we hope to have some fine seed to offer and also many seedlings of good hybrid crosses. If interested, please write for our list.

Our Belgian hybrids will be available next spring. We will offer these in small sizes and they should bloom on the next growth. Those we have tested are very fine and we are sure you will like any we have to offer.

A few hybrid seedlings are still available in the 2½" size. We offer them subject to prior sale at \$4. each. Catt. Adria; Catt. Cassadaga; Catt. Callistoglossa; Catt. Alphand; C. Amabilis x Lord Rothchild; Lc. Santa Claus x Falco; Lc. Gladiator.

Margaret D. Fox

Howard B. Fox

December 1, 1947



# "Orchids as a Hobby"

## *House of Orchids*

ORCHID GROWERS AND IMPORTERS

106 MIDLAND AVENUE

MONTCLAIR, N. J.

MO. 2-7083

OR. 3-5619

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VISITORS WELCOME BY APPOINTMENT



UNFORTUNATELY, there has always been a great deal of mystery and secrecy, as well as the unfounded idea that Orchid growing was a pastime for only the wealthy. Nothing is further from the truth and we wish this little pamphlet to be dedicated to helping the many thousands of beginners and enthusiasts to get started with a collection.

### "ORCHIDS ARE EASY TO GROW"

If more people accepted these few words as fact rather than mere Orchid propaganda, this most interesting and fascinating family of plants would play a much larger part in our daily pleasures.

It is a pleasure to grow plants and watch them develop. Witness the hundreds of thousands of house plants in the homes of our friends. A sunny room, a bay window, or a small greenhouse are all suitable and usually filled with house and foliage plants of different types. Green plants are very acceptable because of their easy culture, but they can never bring the ultimate pleasure that comes with watching a flowering plant come into bloom. Many of our city friends have a plant or two in their homes that would do justice to an accomplished gardener. It's so natural for us all to have the desire for something growing, that few of us stop to wonder why we want plants and flowers around us.

It is possible to have green plants that are easy to grow, inexpensive, requiring very little attention, space or accessories, and that will give one the added satisfaction and enjoyment of fascinating, beautiful, long lasting flowers. That plant is the Orchid.

### "ORCHIDS ARE NOT EXPENSIVE"

The average Orchid plant costs no more than the usual holiday gift plant one purchases at a florist. True, there are fine selected types that cost a great deal, but their value is more a thing of rarity or unique quality than beauty over the less expensive types.

## **"ORCHIDS DO NOT DEMAND A GREAT DEAL OF ATTENTION"**

Taken as a whole, Orchids are a much harder family of plants than is usually believed. In their native habitats they are subject to constant fluctuations in temperature. It sometimes drops many degrees below what we consider a safe minimum temperature, and again rises with sun heat to an exceedingly high degree. To varying amounts of rain, from the constant daily, downpours of a tropical rainy season to extreme drought periods. They are also subject to many more plant diseases and insect pests, than we in cultivating them have contact with. Yet with all of these hardships, they are found in most cases, in fine physical condition. They demand no more attention under cultivation than the common house plant.

To aid those to whom the Orchid is an unknown field, and in answer to the many inquiries that we receive daily, we have listed below a few of the answers to the more frequent questions.

The life of an Orchid plant is not judged by years, but by the treatment given it. As it ages and continues to grow, it throws out new shoots which develop into bulbs or growths, thereby increasing in size yearly. It is through this increase in size that we propagate additional stock by division.

All Orchid species flower once a year when in good condition, and there are a number of hybrids that, once reaching maturity, will sometimes flower more often. This is probably due to the influence of the two different species parents. The plant does not die after flowering and from seed takes from six to seven years to reach maturity.

The number of flowers a plant will bear has to do very greatly with the parent influence, and incidentally with the strength and condition of the plant. However, as we have been breeding for floriferous types, it is reasonable to expect an increase in the number of flowers on a single stem up to their maximum bearing. As a plant increases in size, it more often than not makes more than one flowering lead, so that it is entirely possible to have plants, (Cattleyas) with twenty or more flowers. Other species and varieties also increase proportionately as they age.

Orchid flowers of the more popular types are without a doubt, the longest lasting of any in the floral kingdom, both on the plant and as a decorative cut flower. Cattleyas on the plant will last two to four weeks under ordinary conditions, and when cut, two weeks and more. Cymbidiums and Cypripediums we have kept on the plants sometimes in excess of two months, and they are marvelous keepers when cut. Although all of them appear to be very frail, they are not, and for decorative work, even though their original cost is more than other flowers, their long lasting qualities make them less expensive.

## **"CARE OF ORCHID FLOWERS"**

Orchid flowers should not be cut until fully matured, and in the case of Cattleyas and their hybrids, this is usually three to four days from the time the buds open. In Cymbidiums and Cypripediums the developing time is longer, and with the former, one should wait until all of the flowers on the spike have opened completely. When cutting, always use a very sharp



knife, (never scissors) and after cutting, place the flowers in water, preferably, in a cool dark corner for a few hours to harden them. Use containers that hold a generous supply of cold water, which should be changed daily and when changing, it is well to cut a slight portion off the stem.

### GENERAL CULTURE

We come now to General Culture, referring herein more specifically to the *Cattleya*, *Laelia*, *Brasso* and their hybrids. The subject "Culture," must necessarily be elastic to a certain extent, as climatic conditions vary with locations, but we believe a good general foundation and understanding is the primary essential to successful plant growing, and thus armed, the term "Orchid Culture," should mean "Orchids are easy to grow."

**GREENHOUSES.** The saying "Any Greenhouse is Suitable to Grow Orchids," is quite correct. There are many small greenhouses in which the owner has been growing other types of plants, and would like to try a little collection of Orchids with them. This can be done nicely with, perhaps, only a few minor inexpensive changes. In the cases of large, varied, private collections the house or houses, are usually divided into two or three sections — warm, intermediate and cool, as is the family of Orchids in general.

**VENTILATION.** Orchids require plenty of fresh air for good, strong plant growth. As conditions vary so, the amounts used can only be left to one's good judgment consistent with proper temperatures. From late spring to fall more air may be given than through the winter months. Do not allow the atmosphere to become too dry by ventilating to excess during the hot summer. Care must be taken to prevent drafts. Through the fall, winter and spring it is important that the plants are not chilled and there are times during the winter when a slight crack of air in the middle of the day is sufficient. With houses having bottom air, the method of ventilating is different, as the shaded side can be opened during hot, dry weather with the top vents not so wide. This will keep the atmosphere from drying out to excess. In the winter, a little bottom air is good when the top can only be slightly opened, as the air entering the bottom circulates and loses its chill before reaching the plants.

**SHADING.** We recommend most highly the wood slat shades in their different forms. Roller slat shades are best, as they can be raised or lowered at will depending on the amount of sunlight through the day. Through the winter, here in the East, it is advisable to have as much light as possible, and we remove all shades until early spring when the sun starts getting hotter. There is no definite time to replace shading, but we find it necessary to usually start in February. In case where there are no wood slat shades, some of the forms of greenhouse shadings should be applied, and a light coat for the first time and additional heavier coats as the sun gets brighter and hotter. Orchids require light, but too bright a house will have a tendency to yellow the foliage and harden the plants too much. By the same token too heavy and dark a shading will soften the plants too much. During the latter part of summer the coating will naturally begin to wear off, and by fall, when the sun has lost its burning qualities, should be quite thin, resulting in a lighter house so that the plants will ripen off to good advan-

tage for the long dull winter months. When all danger of the foliage burning is past, the shading should be removed entirely. One can easily see why we recommend the wood slat shades which do away with so much extra work. In exceedingly bright locations, it is sometimes necessary even with the use of wood slat shades to apply a thin coating of shade to the glass.

As a paint shade, a number of cold water products are suitable, providing they can be easily removed in fall when clear glass is desirable. Commercially one of the most popular shades is a mixture of white lead and white gasoline. These shades can be applied either by the use of a spray or paint brush.

For the beginner or amateur who is not always at home, we do recommend a permanent type of slat shade, even though home made.

**WATERING, SYRINGING and DAMPING — DO NOT OVER WATER.** There is no definite basis, amount, or schedule one can follow in watering, and conditions and houses vary so, that again good judgment in watering is better than any set rules. Needless to say, Orchids, in their growing season require considerable water, but should never be kept continually in a wet state. It is true that where the plants grow in their native habitats they are subject to long rainy seasons, but one must bear in mind that their root systems are exposed to the air and are not crowded into pots packed full of compost, and when the rain stops the plants are dry in a matter of minutes. They have a constant circulation of air around them that we do not always have in our greenhouses.

In the matter of Cattleyas, etc., which this General Culture is dealing with primarily, we recommend looking the plants over at least once a week for a good watering. If they are dry by weight or condition of the compost, a watering is in order and in the case of a few plants, an easy method is a quick dipping in a pail or tub. When a collection consists of more plants, a hose is the best. Assuming that the plants are potted uniformly (the same depth from the rim of the pot to the compost) then by filling up that space with water all of the plants receive the same amount proportionately even though in different sized pots. Through the winter always pick a nice, bright sunny morning for watering—never the afternoon. You will sometimes find—especially during spring, summer and fall, because of a drier condition the plants will require more water, and it is beneficial to syringe them in addition to the watering. A hose nozzle, set fine is good to use, and this should be done on nice sunny days early in the morning and if the day continues to be hot, a repetition is good in the afternoon when the sun heat is off the glass. Do not let the bulbs shrivel for lack of water. **AFTER REPOTTING, WATER SHOULD BE GIVEN SPARINGLY** until root action or new growths appear. Daily syringings on nice days are quite safe for repotted plants. In syringing with a hose nozzle one should sweep over the plants as quickly as possible. In this way the leaves and bulbs get a bit of water with practically none added to the compost.

Damping the walks, stagings, and spaces between the plants is beneficial during hot, dry weather, and also helps during dull winter weather when the houses are dry from fire heat. Care must be exercised in SYRING-

ING through the winter and should not be done on any but bright sunny days and never past noon.

Type of water used is most important for successful plant growth. Orchids like a neutral to slightly acid water and many growers, both amateur and commercial, store rain water. Highly alkaline waters are not conducive to good root growth.

**RESTING PERIOD.** Regarding species, especially the Colombian Cattleyas, have little or no resting periods in their native states. In cultivation, however, *C. Gigas* does require a resting period, and we do practice this procedure with good results. After a species has flowered, it rests, and during this dormant stage we use water sparingly until new growths and root action appear, at which time we again start it in its regular growing routine. Hybrids, because of the varied influence of their parents, have for the most part, no resting season. It is interesting to note in connection with this subject, that seedlings up until the time they reach maturity, whether they are species or hybrids, have no resting season and should be grown continuously and never checked.

**HEATING and TEMPERATURES.** Heating is a necessary evil and until the day we all have our Orchid houses controlled with a not too far future, practical air-conditioning system we must always exercise caution in the use of fire heat, whether it be hot water or steam. We divide Orchids as a family into three classes, as regards temperature; namely the warm, intermediate, and cool class. For minimum winter heat we recommend for the warm section a night temperature of 62 to 65 degrees, with a day reading of 65 to 70 degrees. For the intermediate, a night minimum of 60 to 62, and a day reading of 65 degrees. For the cool, a night minimum of 50 degrees with a day reading of 55 degrees. Please bear in mind that these recommendations have been taken from our own experiences and that in higher, dryer altitudes or lower, more humid localities, this table would necessarily have to be changed to suit local conditions. Through the months when heat is necessary, sunlight through the day plays a very important part. On a nice sunny day little fire heat is required, and with sunlight, temperatures can be allowed to go considerably higher than would be safe with the use of fire heat. No plants should be grown in close proximity to heating pipes. Benchings or stagings should be so constructed as to cut off direct radiation from pipes, and where a bench is located a short distance from heating pipes, it is wise to arrange a baffle or tray on which could be placed coke, charcoal or other materials which could be syringed from time to time. In the case of high stagings, heat has a chance to circulate and is absorbed.

In cold, damp, raw weather care must be exercised in connection with heat and moisture. It is especially important that little water (damping) be used to maintain the house in a happy condition. **DO NOT SYRINGE ON SUCH A DAY. IF IN DOUBT — PLAY SAFE, ON THE DRY SIDE.**

**BENCHING and STAGINGS.** While there are many types employed for the average small house, we recommend flat, slat benches rather than step types. They are inexpensive, of easy construction, have greater capa-

city and allow for full light to all plants on any part of the bench. Watering and general care are also simpler.

**DISEASES, INSECT PESTS and CONTROL.** Under cultivation Orchid plants are relatively clean in comparison with other foliage and flowering plants. If thrip or red spider are in evidence in the greenhouse, they might attack the young growths and it is important that other surrounding plants be kept clean. Orchid scale is quite common, but not really serious and being easily seen is quite as easily removed. We make a practice of spraying our plants about every three to four weeks with an effective insecticide.

**POTTING.** The divisions "Potting," is a very important sub-heading of culture. In this remark we refer specifically to the *Cattleya* family and its hybrids. However, in all cases the physical fundamentals of potting are similar even though composts and degrees of firmness vary.

Use only the best grades of materials, clean of foreign matter. A good fresh *Osmunda* (Orchid peat) fibre is tough and will not readily pull apart. When in storage for long periods it loses its life, turns brittle and should not be used. Sphagnum moss when specified should be a good quality, live material.

**TIME TO POT.** There is no set time or season for potting. So long as Orchids flower in all seasons of the year, then, so long they must be potted in all seasons. We do make certain exceptions as in the case of winter flowering *Cattleya* Species. After flowering they are dormant and while in this stage may be left until spring, provided root growth does not start. This is not so with the majority of hybrids, as they grow continuously and should be repotted immediately the flowers are cut. Do not wait until new roots appear as they are very likely to be injured or destroyed when repotted. A well established root system is essential for good strong plant growth.

**SELECTING PLANTS TO BE REPOTTED.** Orchid plants should not be repotted unless they have: (A) Outgrown their present receptacle; (B) Compost decayed or sour; (C) Plant is in unhealthy condition, possibly caused by faulty drainage, etc.

**MAKING READY COMPOST.** After selecting the plant to be repotted, one should make ready the recommended suitable compost. In the case of *Cattleyas* and their hybrids we recommend a straight compost of a good grade *Osmunda* (Orchid peat) Fibre.

**REMOVING FROM POTS, CLEANING, ETC.** The knife blade should be inserted in several places around the edge of the pot and the plant wedged out. All exterior roots should be carefully trimmed off close to the compost and if the material is decayed or sour, it should be removed and all the decayed roots trimmed off as well as all corks removed. In cases where the compost has decayed or soured, one will usually find some good material surrounding the front of the plant with an established root system. This ball of good material and roots should be left undisturbed except for trimming. In cases of merely shifting a plant to a larger size pot because it has outgrown its present size, and the compost is in good condition, it is not necessary to remove any material. All plants should be thoroughly cleaned be-

fore repotting and we suggest a soft bristle, half-inch paint brush with a recognized insecticide. It is especially important to clean around the rhizome where scale might lie. Dry, loose, protective skin should be removed from the bulbs. An ideal sized plant, unless one is going in for specimens, is four to five bulbs. We therefore recommend pruning, by cutting through the rhizome, unnecessary back bulbs, leaving the front of the plant with four or five good bulbs.

**SELECTING NEW POT SIZE. DO NOT OVER POT.** An Orchid plant with a healthy root system should be potted for a two year growth period. In selecting the pot for such a plant, one should hold the trimmed plant inside the new pot and make allowances for at least two additional growths, representing two years.

In the case of a plant not being in healthy condition, and with a poor root system, do not allow for more than a one year growth period. This plant, after regaining its vigor, can then be shifted the following year into a larger sized pot.

**CROCKING.** Good drainage is essential to all Orchids. In the case of Cattleyas, we recommend filling the pot with a third clean broken crock. Other varieties that require more draining are indicated throughout the pamphlet.

**SETTING THE PLANT.** After a plant has been selected, cleaned and made ready for potting, place some Osmunda Fibre on the top of the crocks and, holding the plant with the left hand at the rhizome, set it in position in the pot so that the back of the plant touches the edge of the pot. Keep the rhizome a half-inch down from the rim of the pot and level. With the other hand, insert compost around the plant, setting it temporarily and with the potting stick ram the material down tight. All Cattleyas and their hybrids must be potted firm for best results. By inserting the potting stick down along the inside of the pot, and wedging the point inwards, the material will naturally tighten toward the center. In the space made by the potting stick, insert more material, and continue this operation all around the pot, until the compost is very firm. It is important that the material in the center of the pot around the rhizome be as firm as that around the edge of the pot, and this result can only be obtained by the leverage process of inserting the stick and pressing inwards. In cutting in the compost, try to maintain it level with the bottom of the eyes on the front bulbs. The rhizome and eyes of the leading bulbs should not be buried, but should be exposed. In some cases where the rhizome is on a decided slant, it may be necessary to cover the back of the rhizome and some of the back bulbs. This method of potting should give you all possible opportunities to get more than one lead from the front of your plant, as the eyes are the plant's potential new bulbs. By keeping the rhizome and compost level a half-inch below the rim of the pot, the problem of watering is made simple as all plants so potted, when filled to the rim with water, will receive the same amount proportionately, regardless of size of pot. Please note watering of the repotted plants under General Culture.

Do not remove old compost unless decayed or sour. Orchid plants resent being repotted in the sense of cleaning away all of the old compost. In the cases of seedlings these should be merely shifted to larger size of pots as their growth warrants and care should be taken to keep them growing all of the time. Always use clean pots and it is advisable to soak them in water for a while before use. For Cattleyas and their hybrids, we recommend a medium grade of "Orchid peat" of the best quality obtainable.

**COMPLETION OF OPERATION.** Being satisfied the plant is well potted and perfectly firm, you may take a pair of scissors and trim the compost smooth. It is also advisable to drive a heavy wire stake along the side of the rhizome into the peat in the middle of the pot, and then tie the bulbs a little below the leaves to the stake.

While the foregoing process sounds complicated, it really is not, and we will be glad at any time to demonstrate potting, or answer further questions.

### HOUSE CULTURE

We believe the following suggestions, in addition to "General Culture" will be of value to those who desire to grow a few Orchid plants in the house.

An air-conditioned home is quite ideal for growing plants, provided there is a sunny room or a bay window having a favorable exposure. There is a regulated amount of humidity in an air-conditioned house that is not present in homes heated with hot water or steam, unless the latter two are equipped with humidifiers. Humidity is quite necessary and is maintained to varying extents in greenhouses through syringing and damping down. Unfortunately, in a home, we cannot do this and so must find other ways to give the plants the humidity they lack. We suggest a shallow tray six inches deep, having a metal lining with a vent in the bottom, and filled with about four inches of nice, clean pebbles or half-inch stone. Above this place a rack, preferably of thin wood slats, spaced one-half inch apart. The Orchids should be placed on this slat top. By keeping the stone and slat top wet, the plants receive a certain amount of humidity. A small pressure hand sprayer is very good to use on foliage and bulbs, when the air is dry in order to give the plants humidity.

Plants may require more water in the winter in the home than they do in the greenhouse. For this reason they should be looked over at least once a week for a good watering. A hand sprayer is handy for syringing and can be used on the foliage several times on nice days. Through the summer or times when the home is not artificially heated, it will often be found the plants take longer to dry out, and of course require less water if such is the case.

Orchid plants do very well out of doors through the summer, but cannot stand full sun. Moderate shade from a tree, or a framework of slats gives a very nice light. They will require considerably more water and syringing of the foliage outside than they will in the house.